maintained by the Government. However, correct and complete information in this regard is being collected from the oil companies.

No discretionary allotment has been made by the Government since April, 1996. Earlier such allotments were made by the Government on the basis of the individual circumstances of the case including on compassionate grounds.

(d) to (f) In view of the position stated above, and the matter being sub-judice, necessary action in the matter including action against the officials, if warranted, will be taken by the Competent Authority as per directions of the Court and recommendation of other concerned Agencies.

Foreign Cooperation in Agriculture Sector

*149. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries cooperating/intend to cooperate with India in the agriculture sector;

(b) whether any agreements have been signed with all the countries willing to cooperate in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) I. **Countries with whom agreements/ MOUs have been signed:**

Sl. No.	Name of country	Date of signing of Agreement/ MOU	Areas of cooperation
1.	Australia	2.2.1996	The Umbrella Arrangement between India and Australia provides for cooperation in Agricultural Research and collaborative projects in disciplines such as soil management, veterinary sciences and overcoming production constraints to Sorghum in rainfed environments in India and Australia.
2.	Bangladesh	15.6.1983	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the area of agriculture and animal husbandry, education, research and its application in practice etc.
3.	Brazil	2.7.1997	The Agreement seeks cooperation in exchange of technical and legal information on phytozoosanitary situation including methods of control of plague and diseases, diagnosis techniques, handling and preparation of products and byproducts of animal and vegetable origin.
4.	China	11.4.1992	The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to promote scientific, technical economic cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of materials concerning agricultural science and technology, exchange of germplasm, seeds, seedlings and exchange of scientific and technical information etc.

Sl. No.	Name of country	Date of signing of Agreement/ MOU	Areas of cooperation
5.	Cuba	16.9.1988	The Work Plan signed on 22nd November, 1996 under this Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of science and technology and agricultural research and education
6.	Cyprus	19.2.1992	The Programme of Cooperation covers the fields of horticulture, field crops, soil fertility, fertilizer use and irrigation technology etc.
7.	France	6.2.1994	The Agreement covers different areas including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural development and agro-food industries.
8.	Indonesia	19.12.1992	The Memorandum of Understanding covers various areas of cooperation in agriculture including food crops, secondary crops, rainfed farming, hybrid rice, fisheries, livestock etc.
9.	Iran	11.11.1991	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the fields of Agricultural Research and Education, Rural Development, Animal Husbandry, Vaterinary Sciences, Fisheries, Forestry, Water Management etc.
10.	Israel	24.12.1993	The Agreement covers areas of water and soil management, arid and semi-arid crop production, fruit and vegetable production, animal science, plant protection, agricultural research, agro-forestry etc.
	Israel	30.12.1996	The Memorandum of Intent relates to the establishment, in the first stage, of a demonstration farm unit on the campus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at PUSA in New Delhi with the aim of developing viable technological packages and technology trasfer for the small farmer and private sector.
11.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	2.5.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to encourage cooperation in the field of agricultural science and technology with the objective of increasing agricultural production. It envisages joint activities in the areas of agricultural research, crop production, horticulture, plant protection, animal science, fisheries, forestry, agro-based industry etc.
12.	Mauritius	3.6.1993	The Mmorandum of Understanding covers different areas of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing and economic cooperation.

Sl. No.	Name of country	Date of signing of Agreement/ MOU	Areas of cooperation
13.	Mangolia	16.9.1996	The Agreement seeks to promote scientific, technical and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture through exchange of technology, development of modern methods of bio-technology, formulation and implementation of joint research projects and establishing food processing small industries etc.
14.	Nepal	6.12.1991	The Memorandum of Understanding covers various aspects of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing including production and processing of food and cash crops, multicropping systems, fruit and vegetable development, dairy development etc.
15.	Oman	5.10.1996	The Memorandum of Understanding covers various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors includinng joint activities and exchanges in the areas of agricultural research, horticulture, dairy development, livestock, soil conservation, irrigation etc.
	Oman	2.4.1997	The Agreement provides for development of cooperation in the fields of agricultural research and training and to improve the production technique and extension activities thereof by exchange of scientists and technologists, exchange of germplasm and breeding material, scientific literature etc.
16.	Pakistan	4.7.1985	The Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of research and education as well as development in agriculture.
17.	Peru	26.5.1997	The Memorandum of Agreement between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Agricultural Research Institute of Peru provides for cooperation in the fields of research and training and improvement of production techniques and extension, thereof through exchange of scientists and technologists, exchange of germplasm and breeding material, exchange of scientific literature, information etc.

Sl. No.	Name of country	Date of signing of Agreement/ MOU	Areas of cooperation
18.	Philippines	28.4.1991	The Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Philippines covers agricultural science and technology including areas of rice production and processing, multiple cropping system, dry land farming systems, water management, agricultural machinery, horticulture, dairy livestock improvement etc.
19.	Senegal	16.2.1997	The Memorandum of Understnding provides for establishment of Agricultural development Project in Senegal by the Government of India.
20.	Syria	19.6.1994	The Programme of Cooperation covers the areas of plant production research, horticulture, food processing industries, plant protection, animal production and health, soil and water management etc.
21.	Trinidad & Tobago	24.1.1997	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agriculture. The areas of cooperation include livestock, water management for agricultural purposes, sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry, crop improvement etc.
22.	Tunisia	7.10.1996	In pursuance of the Agreed Minutes of the Fifth Session of Indo-Tunisian Joint Commission (7-12 October, 1996), Work Plan was signed between Indian council of Agricultural Research and Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture on 7th October, 1996. It provides for technical cooperation, exchange of germplasm and scientific information, exchange visits/ consultancies of scientists between India and Tunisia and training of scientists.
23.	United States of America	27.1.1996	The Agreement provides for cooperation in agricultural sciences to further cooperation among scientists from India and the United States of America in areas of significant mutual interests and benefits relating to agriculture, viz., exchange of information, ideas, skills and techniques to enhance opportunities to collaborate in solving problems of common interests relating to agriculture.

Sl. No.	Name of country	Date of signing of Agreement/ MOU	Areas of cooperation
24.	Vietnam	31.12.1992	The Memorandum of Understanding provides for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education and covers areas such as crop sciences, scientific research, animal sciences, dairy development, exchange of scientists etc.
25.	Yemen	7.12.1996	The Memorandum of Understanding covers agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing etc.
26.	Russia	5.10.1995	The Agreement between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS) provides for cooperation in the field of agriculture and related subjects.

Agreements signed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) with International Organisations/Institutions of other countries.

Besides the Agreements/MOUs signed with the above countries the ICAR has also signed Agreements with several International Organisations and Institutes in different parts of the World for cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Area of Cooperation
II.		COUNTRIES WITH WHOM AGREEMENTS/MOUs ARE INTENDED TO BE SIGNED
1.	Greece	A Memorandum of Understanding is proposed to be signed with the Government of Greece for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. The draft Memorandum of Understanding has already been sent to the Greek side for their comments.
2.	Holland	Following the visit of the Agriculture Minister to Holland in July, 1997 the possibilities of cooperation in the field of Agriculture with that country are also being explored.

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Area of Cooperation
3.	Iran	A Memorandum of Understanding with the Islamic Republic of Iran for cooperation in the field of Animal Health and a Health Protocol thereunder is likely to be signed. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, especially Health Protocol was necessitated to facilitate export of buffalo meat to Iran.
4.	Myanmar	A Memorandum of Understanding is proposed to be signed with the Governmenmt of the Union of Myanmar for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Science and Technology with the objective of increasing agricultural production.
5.	Namibia	A Memorandum of Understanding is proposed to be signed with Namibia for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. The draft Memorandum of Understanding prepared by the Ministry of External affairs was sent to the Namibian side on 14th May, 1997 for comments.
6.	Thailand	A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed for cooperation with the Government of Kingdom of Thailand for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Science and Technology through Joint Activities and Exchanges. Such joint activities will be in areas of agricultural research, crop production, horticulture, livestock production and health etc.

Panna and Mukta Oil fields

*150. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has given a report for the Panna and Mukta Oil fields pointing out a number of irregularties therein;

(b) whether it is a fact that at the time of inviting bids for production of a total of 31.35 million tonnes of oil reserve were shown as against the actual reserves of 54.25 million tonnes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ONGC was offered a rate of Rs.1741/—per tonne whereas the private companies were offered the rate of Rs.4545/—per tonne; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for this variation and what is the quantum of loss incurred by Government on this account?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) CAG in their final report No. 5 (Commercial) of 1996 on "participation of private parties with ONGC in production of crude oil and natural gas" made observation interalia relating to non-reimbursement of past cost of ONGC, bid evaluation